

# Quiet achiever built a solid reputation

## Graham Glick

Engineer and community contributor

**Born:** North Perth, 1930

**Died:** Mt Lawley, aged 92

Everywhere you look around Perth and throughout WA, you'll see the fingerprints of Graham Glick.

As a prominent Perth engineer since the early 1960s, Graham Glick was a leading figure in the development of the cityscape, the expansion of Perth suburbs and the resources industry up north.

From Perth high-rise buildings, to suburbs such as Two Rocks, from Belmont racetrack to Onslow Solar Salt and Dampier township, from helping Charlie Bunning build his first superstore to developing the Perth Sand Penetrometer with Baden Clegg (still used to this day), Graham's quiet presence is still felt throughout the State.

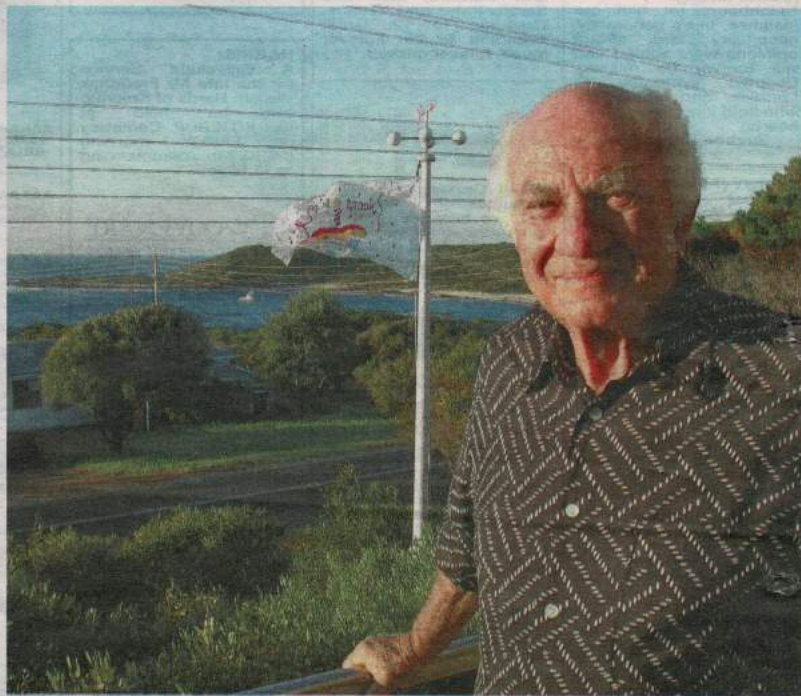
But he wasn't just a great engineer, he was also a loving husband and family man plus a dedicated community supporter donating many hours to charities and non-profit organisations.

He was kind, warm, inquisitive, generous and witty. Also a person renowned for falling asleep at the drop of a hat and waking up to continue where he left off. He was someone you would be happy to see anytime. A person who would help in any situation because he was genuinely interested to help and genuinely interested in everyone.

Graham was the only child born to parents Victor and Francis Glick in 1930. He spent a happy childhood in and around Mt Lawley growing up in the first house to be built in the Mt Lawley No. 3 Estate.

His summers at their family holiday shack at Marmion beach ignited his love for fishing, below. He enjoyed this immensely but especially in his small tinie in Gracetown, catching herring with whoever was visiting at the time.

Having caught dozens of herring they would be enjoyed



in so many ways — cold or hot smoked, in a frying pan, barbecued or even pickled for eating later.

Graham excelled at North Perth Primary School followed by secondary school at Perth Modern.

Having scored a distinction in every subject at school, he was awarded an exhibition entry to the University of WA and graduated in 1952 with first-class honours having again achieved a distinction in every subject.

His early work projects around Perth included the BP oil refinery in Kwinana and then an overseas scholarship took him to the UK for a couple of years as a newlywed.

Upon returning to Perth, he accepted a position as a senior lecturer at UWA, where one of his students was a future governor of WA, Ken Michael.

Although many thought he was crazy for leaving a permanent staff position, in 1961 Graham entered private practice, establishing the highly successful firm Halpern Glick Consulting Engineers.

And so began decades of being involved in quietly transforming the landscape of Perth and WA to the image that we all know.

Graham loved engineering and solving problems and he became an expert witness in court cases involving all things concrete. Hence his industry title, the Concrete King. He was also a skilled arbitrator helping resolve many complex issues through mediation.

For nearly 30 years he was responsible for the engineering for many prominent buildings in Perth and diversified into mineral resource projects as well as expanding with offices in Darwin, Sydney, Singapore, Geraldton and Bunbury.

On retiring in 1988, he discovered a talent for painting and continued his passion for

wood turning. Plus he loved spending as much time as possible fishing at his beloved beach house in Gracetown, pictured above.

Having been a dedicated community member in Cowaramup Bay for over 30 years, including a long stint as town association treasurer, his old house there still has the name Glick painted in big letters on the rubbish bin.

He was a supportive husband for over 67 years to his beloved wife Ruth (nee Weil) because, as he joked, he never wanted to be left Ruthless.

He was a loving father to Martin, Rodney and Andrea who fondly remember family holidays which were always educational — usually involving a caravan and a trip to his latest engineering project out bush plus a snake or two. Their childhood also included happy memories of building complex contraptions with Meccano, helping in the garden and painting pictures on huge sheets of old engineering plans.

Although his final few years were impeded by dementia, he always kept his sense of humour, talent for art and love for nature. His last years in aged care were happy with good food, excellent care and people to talk and joke with.

Until the end he liked listening to stories and hearing about the world. When told about electric cars that you can charge at home in your garage, he was fascinated and asked "Here, where we live?"

Conversations became very philosophical, discussing ideas such as how the Sun produced its energy, the variety of animal life and reincarnation.

He always said he wanted to come back as a bird, so when we see a bird in flight, along with many other things all around us, it will remind us of him.

Rest in peace.

Andrea Maguire



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Phone: 9482 3341 ■ Fax: 9482 9040 ■ Email: paul.barry@wanews.com.au ■ Post: GPO Box 1959, Perth, WA 6843